



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROD BLAGOJEVICH - GOVERNOR

NEWS

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Gov. Blagojevich encourages emergency response agencies to apply for federal assistance program

Law enforcement, emergency responder agencies outside Cook County eligible to apply for response equipment

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. Rod Blagojevich today encouraged law enforcement and emergency response agencies outside Cook County to apply for a new direct federal assistance program that could provide them tools to better protect and respond to their citizens in the event of a disaster. Communities can apply to receive equipment to enhance and support regional response, mutual aid and interoperability of responder equipment.

“Through the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, we’ve been able to provide a great deal of vital equipment to local responders, including personal protective equipment to more than 70,000 first responders throughout the state,” Gov. Blagojevich said. “While we’ve been able to build a homeland security program that is recognized across the nation, I encourage local law enforcement and emergency response organizations to take advantage of this opportunity to further enhance these efforts.”

DHS launched the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) to help response agencies outside the major metropolitan areas with personal protective equipment, detection and sensor devices, information sharing software for law enforcement operations, and communications interoperability systems.

The competitive federal program offers equipment currently available on federal contract that will be used to respond through mutual aid and to protect infrastructure in the selected areas. Applicant requests will be coordinated with the state homeland security program to ensure it is consistent with the state’s strategic plan.

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Add1/ Governor encourages emergency response agencies to apply for federal assistance

Applications for the federal assistance program are available online at www.rkb.mipt.org and can be submitted between April 5 and May 5. Pre-application material and guidance documents are currently available on this web site. The DHS Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) will notify successful applicants later this spring.

Chicago and Cook County receive Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and are not eligible for this grant program.

Questions regarding the CEDAP program can be directed to the SLGCP Helpline at 1-800-368-6498.